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Bryant

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[54] **YARN STORAGE CONTAINER**

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[51] **Int. Cl.**[7] **B65D 85/67**; B65H 49/00

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **206/392**; 206/388; 206/391; 223/107; 242/127; 242/129; 242/146

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 206/392, 388, 206/391, 574; 66/125 R, 132 R; 242/127, 137.1, 129, 137, 146, 160.2; 223/107

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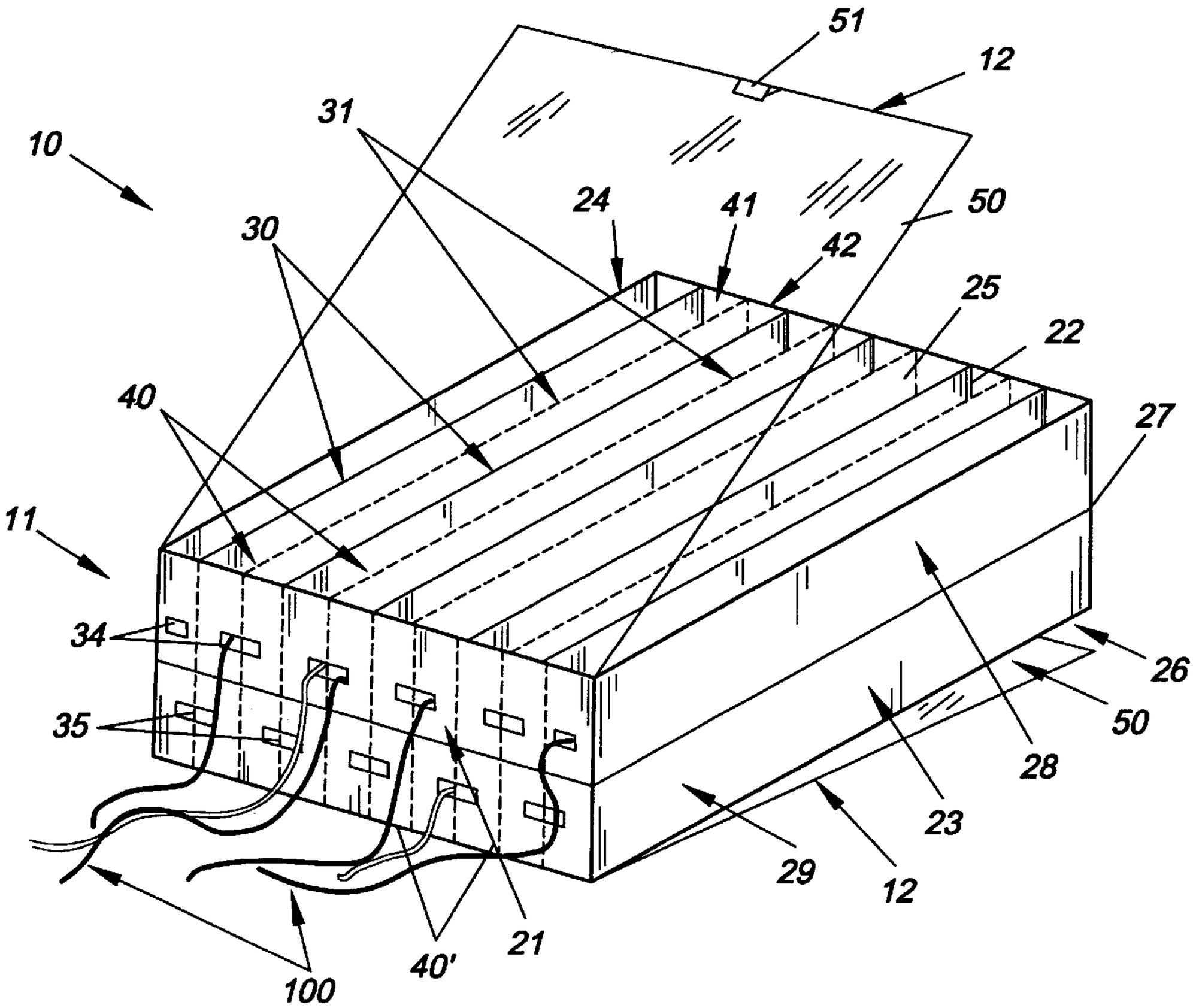
Primary Examiner—Bryon P. Gehman

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A yarn storage container **10** including a generally rectangular container member **20** divided into an upper **28** and lower **29** main compartment which are further divided by permanent **30** and removable **31** partitions into enlarged subcompartments **40** and smaller compartments **41, 42** respectively provided with spaced rows of apertures **34, 35** for dispensing strands of yarn **100** from the respective compartments **40, 41, 42**.

12 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet



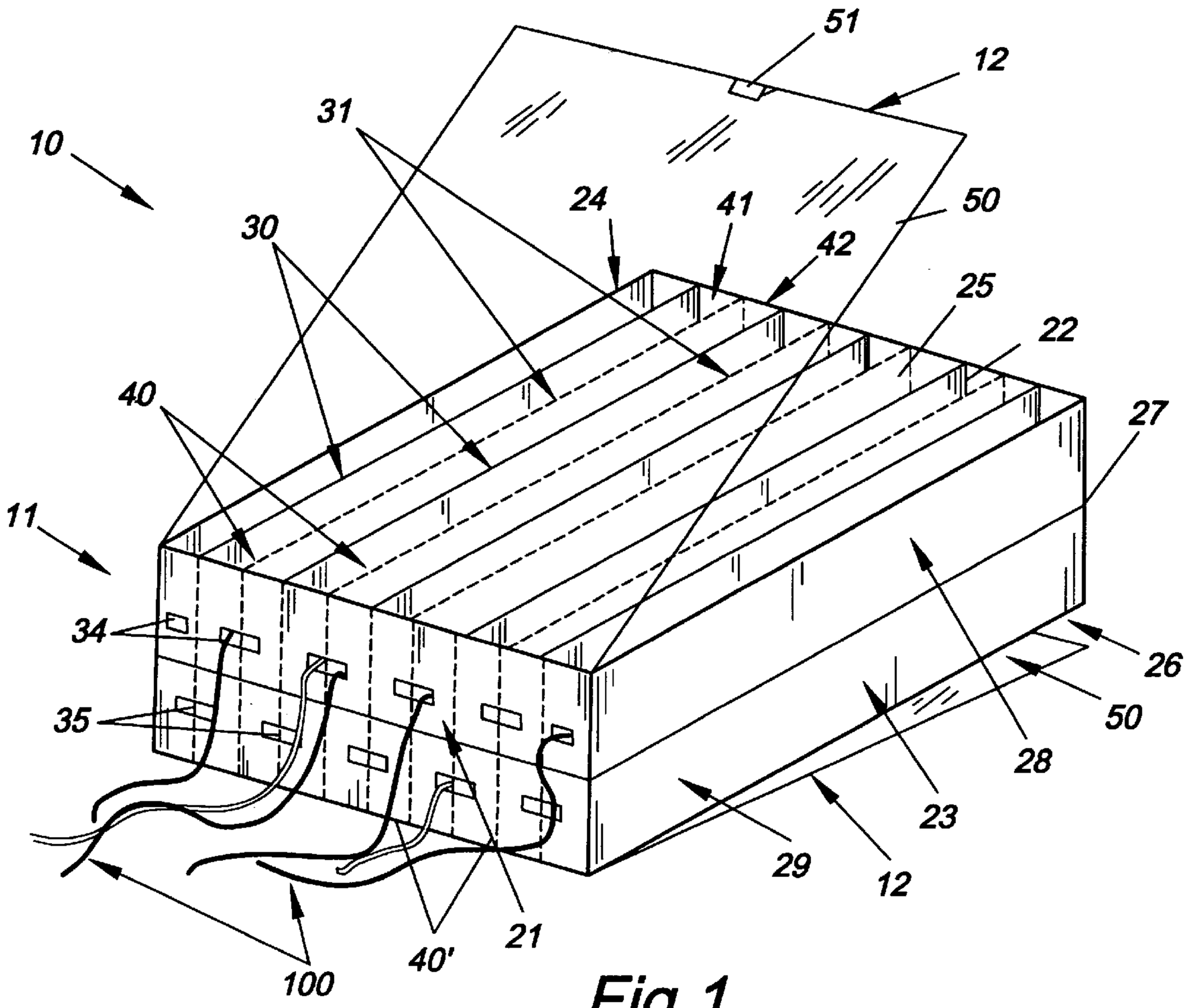


Fig. 1

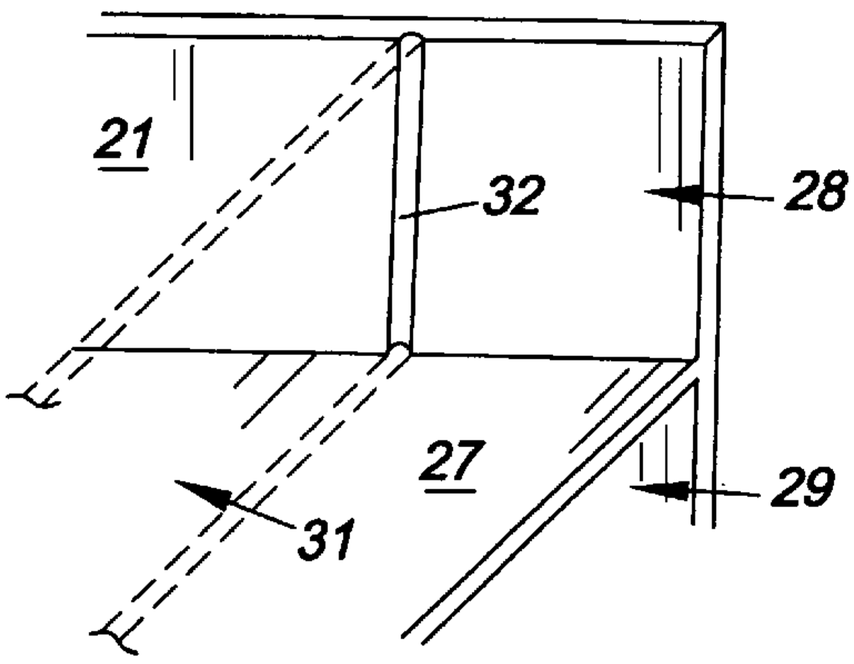


Fig.2

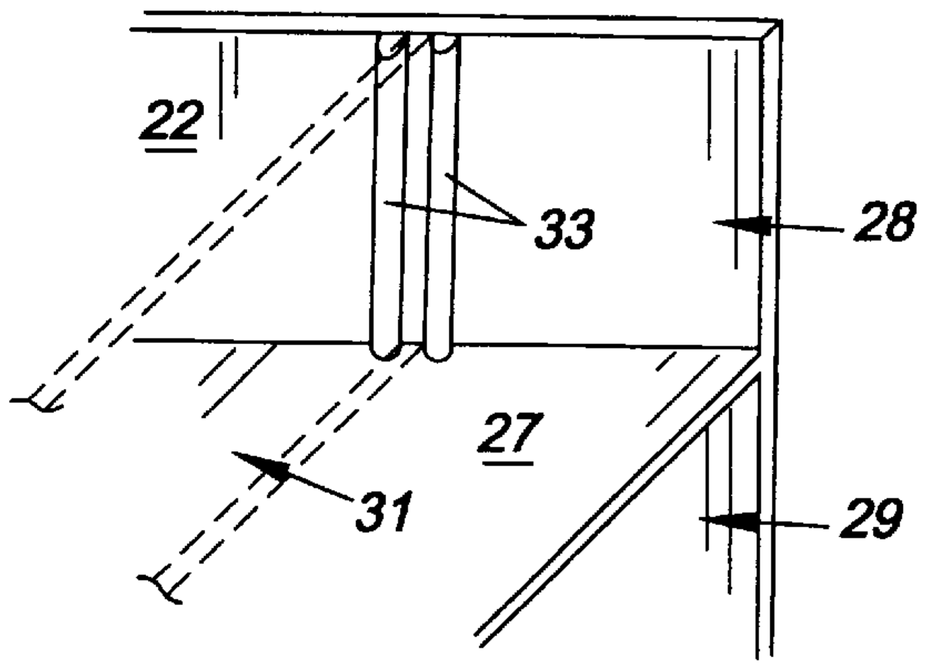


Fig.3

YARN STORAGE CONTAINER

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not applicable.

REFERENCE TO MICROFICHE APPENDIX

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the field of yarn holding devices in general, and in particular to a two tiered yarn storage container.

2. Description of Related Art

As can be seen by reference to the following U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,856,140; 4,319,703; 4,380,296; and 5,150,794, the prior art is replete with myriad and diverse holders for single or multiple strands of yarn.

While all of the aforementioned prior art constructions are more than adequate for the basic purpose and function for which they have been specifically designed, they are uniformly deficient with respect to their failure to provide a simple, efficient, and practical two tiered storage and dispensing container for individual skeins of yarn. The individual skeins are segregated from one another and the quantity of yarn in each compartment within the container is readily visible.

As any knitter or crocheter is all too well aware, the most difficult part of any project is the segregation of the different colored strands of yarn required to finish the project.

As a consequence of the foregoing situation, there has existed a longstanding need for a new and improved type of yarn storage container that will segregate and dispense visually monitorable quantities of yarn from a single storage container, and the provision of such a construction is a stated objective of the present invention.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Briefly stated, the yarn storage container that forms the basis of the present invention comprises in general, a two tiered storage container unit having a novel partition arrangement and dispensing aperture array and a plurality of closure units that control access to the two tiered container unit.

As will be explained in greater detail further on in the specification, the container unit includes a generally rectangular container member divided into upper and lower main compartments wherein each of the main compartments are further provided with a first plurality of permanent partitions and a second plurality of removable partitions to divide the main compartments into enlarged sub-compartments and optional pairs of smaller compartments. Each of the sub-compartments and/or pairs of smaller compartments are dimensioned to receive quantities of different colored yarns.

In addition, the container member is provided with a first row of spaced apertures aligned in one fashion with the upper compartment sub-compartments and a second row of spaced apertures aligned in another fashion with the lower compartment sub-compartments.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other attributes of the invention will become more clear upon a thorough study of the following description of the best mode for carrying out the invention, particularly when reviewed in conjunction with the drawings, wherein:

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of the yarn holding container that forms the basis of the present invention;

FIG. **2** is an isolated detail view of one form of operative engagement between a removable partition and a portion of the container member; and

FIG. **3** is an isolated detail view of another form of operative engagement between a removable partition and a portion of the container member.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As can be seen by reference to the drawings, and in particularly to FIG. **1**, the yarn holding container that forms the basis of the present invention is designated generally by the reference number **10**. The container **10** comprises in general a two tiered container unit **11**, and a plurality of closure units **12**. These units will now be described in seriatim fashion.

As can be seen by reference to FIG. **1**, the container unit **11** comprises a generally elongated container member **20** having a front wall **21**, a rear wall **22**, and opposed side walls **23**, **24** which define an elongated rectangular enclosure having an open top **25** and an open bottom **26**.

Furthermore, the container member **20** is provided with an elongated rectangular floor panel **27** disposed intermediate the top and the bottom of the container member **20** to divide the container member **20** into a main upper compartment **28** and a main lower compartment **29**.

In addition, both the upper compartment **28** and the lower compartment **29** are provided with a plurality of permanent partitions **30** disposed at evenly spaced intervals and aligned parallel to the longitudinal axis of the container member **20** to create a plurality of enlarged storage sub-compartments **40**, and a plurality of removable panels **31** whose purpose and function will be described presently.

As can be seen by reference to FIGS. **2** and **3**, the interior surfaces of the front **21** and rear **22** walls are provided either with slots **32** or pairs of closely spaced vertical ribs **33** which are dimensioned to slidably receive one end of the removable panels **31** in a well recognized fashion.

Returning once more to FIG. **1**, it can be seen that the front wall **21** of the container member **20** is provided with an upper row **34** and a lower row **35** of spaced apertures wherein the upper row of apertures **34** are disposed intermediate the permanent partitions **30** in the upper compartment **28** and the lower row of apertures **35** are bifurcated by the permanent partitions **30** in the lower compartment **29**.

As a consequence of the foregoing situation, the presence of a removable partition **31** in any one of the enlarged permanent storage sub-compartments **40** defined by the permanent partition **30** in the upper compartment **28** will divide that storage compartment **40** into two equal sized smaller sub-compartments **41**, **42** which share a single aperture **34**. The presence of a removable partition **31** in any one of the enlarged storage sub-compartments **40'** in the lower compartment **28** will create two smaller compartments **41**, **42** wherein each of the smaller compartment **41**, **42** will share a portion of two different apertures **35**.

By now it should be appreciated that each of the permanent upper sub-compartments **40** have a single aperture **34** whereas each of the permanent lower sub-compartments **40'** share a portion of one or more of the lower row of apertures **35** wherein the presence or absence of the removably partitions **31** will increase or decrease the number of individual strands of yarn that can effectively be stored in most of the compartments **40**, **40'**, **40**, and **42**.

Still referring to FIG. **1**, it can be seen that the plurality of closure units **12** comprise a pair of generally rectangular lid members **50** which are hingedly connected to the top and bottom of the front wall **21** of the container member **20** wherein the free end of the lid members **50** are provided with a catch element **51** dimensioned to be releasably engaged by a latch element **48** formed on the interior of the upper and lower portions of the rear wall **22** of the container member **20**.

In addition, each of the lid members **50** are fabricated from a generally transparent material so that the quantity of yarn **100** available in any given compartment **40**, **41**, **42** may be readily determined.

Although only an exemplary embodiment of the invention has been described in detail above, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that many modifications are possible without materially departing from the novel teachings and advantages of this invention. Accordingly, all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of this invention as defined in the following claims.

Having thereby described the subject matter of the present invention, it should be apparent that many substitutions, modifications, and variations of the invention are possible in light of the above teachings. It is therefore to be understood that the invention as taught and described herein is only to be limited to the extent of the breadth and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A yarn storage container comprising:

a two-tiered container unit including a generally rectangular container member having a front wall, a rear wall, two opposed side walls; wherein each of the walls has a top and a bottom, an intermediate divider panel that divides the container member into a main upper compartment and a main lower compartment wherein the upper and lower compartments are provided with a plurality of partitions which subdivide the main compartments into a plurality of enlarged sub-compartments; and, wherein the front wall of the container member is provided with a first row of spaced apertures that communicate with the enlarged sub-compartments in the upper compartment and a second row of spaced apertures that communicate with the enlarged sub-compartments in the lower compartment; wherein at least one of said apertures in each row is bisected by one of said plurality of partitions.

2. The yarn storage container as in claim **1** further comprising:

a pair of generally rectangular lid members hingedly connected respectively to the top and bottom of a selected wall of the container member.

3. The yarn storage container as in claim **2** wherein said lid members are fabricated from transparent material.

4. The yarn storage container as in claim **1** further comprising:

a pair of generally rectangular lid members hingedly connected respectively to the front wall of the container member.

5. The yarn storage container as in claim **4** wherein said lid members are fabricated from transparent material.

6. The yarn storage container as in claim **1** wherein one of said rows of spaced apertures is centrally aligned relative to the enlarged sub-compartments in a selected one of said upper and lower main compartments.

7. The yarn storage container as in claim **6** wherein said plurality of partitions comprise at least a first plurality of permanent partitions.

8. The yarn storage container as in claim **9** wherein said plurality of partitions further comprise a second plurality of removable partitions.

9. The yarn storage container as in claim **1** wherein said plurality of partitions comprise a first plurality of permanent partitions and a second plurality of removable partitions.

10. The yarn storage container as in claim **1** wherein said plurality of partitions comprise a plurality of permanent partitions.

11. The yarn storage container as in claim **1** wherein said plurality of partitions comprise a plurality of removable partitions.

12. The yarn storage container as in claim **1** wherein said plurality of partitions comprise a first plurality of permanent partitions and a second plurality of removable partitions.

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